

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

32. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising a polymer microparticle and an aqueous solution of DNA, wherein the DNA comprises a coding sequence, wherein the microparticle is 10µm or less in diameter, and wherein the aqueous solution of DNA has an alcohol content of 1 to 40% and is encapsulated inside the microparticle.

33. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 32, wherein the microparticle comprises a biodegradable polymer.

34. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 33, wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of a lactide-containing polymer, a glycolide-containing polymer and a polymer comprising lactide and glycolide.

35. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 33, wherein the polymer is soluble in an organic solvent.

36. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 32, wherein the microparticle consists of a biodegradable polymer.

37. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 36, wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of a lactide-containing polymer, a glycolide-containing polymer and a polymer comprising lactide and glycolide.

38. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 32, wherein the microparticle is in the size range 0.1 μm to 10 μm .

39. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 32, wherein the DNA is circular DNA or plasmid DNA.

40. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 32, wherein the DNA further comprises a promoter sequence operably linked to the coding sequence.

41. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 40, wherein the coding sequence encodes an immunogen.

42. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 41, wherein the coding sequence encodes an immunogenic component of a pathogenic organism selected from the group consisting of pathogenic bacteria and pathogenic viruses.

43. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a plurality of polymer microparticles and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the microparticles contain an aqueous solution of DNA, the aqueous solution of DNA has an alcohol content of 1 to 40%, and the DNA comprises a coding sequence encoding a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

(a) antigens FHA, PT, 68kd-Pertacin, tetanus toxin, gp-48, NS1, Capsid, gp350, NS3, SA, I, NP, E, M, gp340, F, H, HN, 35kd protein, VP1, E1, E2, C, M, E and MSHA; and
(b) immunogenic fragments of the polypeptides of (a).

44. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 43 wherein the microparticles are in the size range 0.1 μm to 10 μm .

45. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 44, wherein the DNA comprises double stranded plasmid DNA.

46. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 45, wherein the DNA further comprises a promoter sequence operably linked to the coding sequence.

47. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 43, wherein the polymer is a lactide containing polymer.

48. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 43, wherein the polymer is a glycolide-containing polymer.

49. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 43, wherein the polymer comprises poly(DL-lactide-co-glycolide).

50. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 43 wherein at least 50% of the microparticles are in the size range 0.1 μm to 10 μm .

51. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 43, further comprising a taste-enhancing agent.

52-56. (Canceled)

57. (New) The composition of claim 32, wherein the alcohol is a straight chain or branched C₂-C₁₀ alcohol.

58. (New) The composition of claim 32, wherein the alcohol is ethanol.

59. (New) The composition of claim 32, wherein the alcohol is methanol or propanol.

60. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 43, wherein the alcohol is a straight chain or branched C₂-C₁₀ alcohol.

61. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 43, wherein the alcohol is ethanol.

62. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 43, wherein the alcohol is methanol or propanol.